

EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

For immediate release

News release no. 1

Sept 29, 2004/ 12:50 p.m.

Contact: Rob Harper or Mark Clemens

Phone: 800-688-8955 (*media only*)

Web address: www.emd.wa.gov

State EOC activated for Mt. St. Helens activity

CAMP MURRAY, WA—The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated at 10:40 a.m. today because of increased activity at the Mt. St. Helens volcano.

Washington state's present role is to monitor the situation and support any local government requests for assistance should a response to the situation be required. Gov. Gary Locke's office has been informed of the incident.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray, Washington, south of Tacoma, continues to maintain regular contact with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, and county and state agencies. Operated by the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department, the State EOC is open 24-hours a day year round.

While any Mt. St. Helens activity that may occur is not currently projected to threaten life or property, members the public may want to use this opportunity to update their emergency plans. Information about how to prepare for every type of emergency is available at www.emd.wa.gov.

Additional note to the public:

The State Enhanced 911 Office in cooperation with local telephone carriers reminds all citizens in the affected area:

- To stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need to make a telephone call. Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.
- If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP. Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.

###

Members of the media may call the Washington Emergency Information Center at **(800) 688-8955**.
EDITORS: Do not release the media phone number to the public. It is for *media use only*.